SUBSTANCE

OF THE

REPORT

OF THE

COURT OF DIRECTORS

TO THE

Sierra Leone Company.

SUBSTANCE

OF THE

REPORT

OF THE

COURT OF DIRECTORS

OF THE

SIERRA LEONE COMPANY

TO THE

GENERAL COURT,

HELD AT LONDON

On Wedneſday the 19th of October, 1791.

TO WHICH IS ADDED

A

POSTSCRIPT.

27.

LONDON:
PRINTED BY JAMES PHILLIPS,
GEORGE YARD, LOMBARD STREET,
M.DCC.XCII.

In purſuance of the Act of Parliament incorporating the SIERRA LEONE COMPANY, *the following thirteen Gentlemen have been choſen Directors for the preſent Year.*

HENRY THORNTON, Eſq. M. P.
Chairman.
PHILIP SANSOM, Eſq. Dep. Chairman.
Sir CHARLES MIDDLETON, Bart.
Sir GEORGE YOUNG, Knt.
WILLIAM WILBERFORCE, Eſq. M. P.
Rev. THOMAS CLARKSON.
JOSEPH HARDCASTLE, Eſq.
JOHN KINGSTON, Eſq.
SAMUEL PARKER, Eſq.
GRANVILLE SHARP, Eſq.
WILLIAM SANDFORD, Eſq.
VICKERIS TAYLOR, Eſq.
GEORGE WOLFF, Eſq.

At a Court of Directors of the SIERRA LEONE COMPANY, *held on Wedneſday the 26th October*, 1791.

Copies of the Report read to the General Court of Proprietors on the 19th inſt. having been requeſted by ſeveral Subſcribers,

RESOLVED,

That the ſubſtance of the ſaid Report ſhall be printed, and one copy ſent to each Proprietor.

H. THORNTON, Chairman.

In purſuance of the Act of Parliament incorporating the SIERRA LEONE COMPANY, *the following thirteen Gentlemen have been choſen Directors for the preſent Year.*

HENRY THORNTON, Eſq. M. P.
Chairman.
PHILIP SANSOM, Eſq. Dep. Chairman.
Sir CHARLES MIDDLETON, Bart.
Sir GEORGE YOUNG, Knt.
WILLIAM WILBERFORCE, Eſq. M. P.
Rev. THOMAS CLARKSON.
JOSEPH HARDCASTLE, Eſq.
JOHN KINGSTON, Eſq.
SAMUEL PARKER, Eſq.
GRANVILLE SHARP, Eſq.
WILLIAM SANDFORD, Eſq.
VICKERIS TAYLOR, Eſq.
GEORGE WOLFF, Eſq.

At a Court of Directors of the SIERRA LEONE COMPANY, *held on Wedneſday the 26th October*, 1791.

Copies of the Report read to the General Court of Proprietors on the 19th inſt. having been requeſted by ſeveral Subſcribers,

RESOLVED,

That the ſubſtance of the ſaid Report ſhall be printed, and one copy ſent to each Proprietor.

H. THORNTON, Chairman.

SUBSTANCE

OF THE

REPORT

FROM THE

COURT OF DIRECTORS

TO THE

GENERAL COURT

OF THE

SIERRA LEONE COMPANY.

THE moſt advantageous ſeaſon for ſettling at Sierra Leone now nearly approaching, and the intelligence that was expected having been received from Mr. Falconbridge, Agent to the Company, who is lately arrived from thence, the Directors have thought proper to call the

A preſent

preſent Court, for the purpoſe of laying ſome general information before the Proprietors, and of ſubmitting alſo to their determination the propoſition for raiſing a capital, which will be ſtated at the end of this Report.

In order to give a connected view of the ſubject, they will firſt briefly relate the hiſtory of the little ſettlement at Sierra Leone that has been already attempted, and they will then proceed to ſtate, under ſhort and diſtinct heads, ſome obſervations which they are now enabled more particularly to make concerning the climate of Sierra Leone, the population and government, religion and morals, cultivation and trade, and alſo concerning the preſent ſtate of the ſlave trade in that part.

ABOUT

ABOUT five years ſince, the ſtreets of London ſwarming with a number of Blacks in the moſt diſtreſſed ſituation, who had no proſpect of ſubſiſting in this country but by depredations on the public, or by common charity, the humanity of ſome reſpectable Gentlemen was excited towards theſe unhappy objects. They were accordingly collected to the number of above 400, and, together with 60 Whites, chiefly women of the loweſt ſort, in ill health, and of bad character, they were ſent out at the charge of government to Sierra Leone. It was hoped that the neceſſity of their ſituation might bring them into ſome tolerable habits of induſtry and good order; and a grant of land to his Majeſty from King Tom, the then neighbouring chief, was obtained for their uſe by Captain

Thompſon of his Majeſty's Navy, who conducted them; and afterwards a ſimilar grant from King Naimbanna, the king of the country. This land being about 20 miles ſquare, is the ſame which his Majeſty was enabled by the late act of parliament to grant to the Company; and it has been lately confirmed by a direct grant to themſelves from King Naimbanna, which is now brought over by Mr. Falconbridge.

During a long detention of theſe poor people in the Channel, and during their paſſage to Sierra Leone, as well as after their arrival there, they were extremely unhealthy, chiefly from diſorders brought on board with them, which appear to have been aggravated by exceſſive drinking and other debaucheries; they were landed in the wet ſeaſon; there was no order or regularity eſtabliſhed amongſt them; and from theſe cauſes a very great proportion

proportion of them, being expoſed to the weather, died very ſoon. *

It does not appear, however, that after the firſt year was paſſed, there was any extraordinary mortality; it is even ſaid by Green, one of the ſettlers now in England, who lived always with them, that during the two ſucceeding years he does not believe above five or ſix died out of near 200, who were then living in the ſame town. By giving a very ſlight degree of cultivation to their lands, and by a vaſt increaſe of their poultry, theſe ſettlers, though ſo far from being induſtrious in their habits, ſupplied themſelves with a ſufficiency of food, and were in poſſeſſion of a ſmall and increaſing property when the following unfortunate circumſtance aroſe, and occaſioned their entire diſperſion.

* About 50 died before they left Plymouth, and 34 on the paſſage; 15 ran away, and 86 died on the coaſt in the firſt four months after their arrival.

Two boats belonging to King Jammy (ſucceſſor to King Tom) the neighbouring chief, ſeized within ſight of the town of theſe free ſettlers, the crew of an American boat (in retaliation, as King Jammy ſays, for an injury he had received before from ſome other Americans who had kidnapped four of his people.) Three out of four of theſe Americans were killed; the fourth eſcaped out of their hands by ſwimming, and carried information of the violence, to the Engliſh Slave Factory at Bance Iſland. The particulars of an unhappy diſpute which followed, the Directors forbear to detail; feeling it however their duty to obſerve, that little or no blame appears to be imputable to the ſettlers. But King Jammy's town having been burnt by ſome other perſons, and a few of the ſettlers having involved themſelves by acting as guides, their town was ſome time after by a judicial ſentence ordered to be deſtroyed, and three days notice of this was ſent to them. About

180 or

180 or 200 ſettlers, leaving their plantations, and a great quantity of poultry behind them, were then diſperſed. The Agent of the Slave Factory gave them protection for the firſt five or ſix weeks at Bob's Iſland in the neighbourhood, but they were ſent away afterwards to Par Boſon's Town, 12 miles up the country.

Mr. Falconbridge arriving about twelve months after their diſperſion, found forty-eight of theſe ſettlers reſiding at this town of Par Boſon; ſome were living in the parts around; ſome had gone to the Weſt Indies, ſome to England, and there was a general fear of their being all made ſlaves. Mr. Falconbridge brought down theſe forty-eight ſettlers to form a new ſettlement at Fora Bay, which is about a mile and a half further from King Jammy's ground than their former town, where he took poſſeſſion of ſome deſerted houſes that were ſtanding. Sixteen ſettlers had joined them from other

parts before he came away, and more were expected to come in. The charge of them was left to Theodore Kallingee, a Greek, ſent out from this country, whoſe conduct is mentioned by Mr. Falconbridge in the moſt favourable terms. A ſufficient quantity of muſkets and ammunition was given them, as well as £. 30 worth of cutlery, which they might barter for neceſſaries.

About four acres of land were already cleared round the town, and planted with yams and caſſada, and ſown with Engliſh ſeed; and upon the whole, it appeared to Mr. Falconbridge, when he left the country, that they would with very little labour, ſupport themſelves in the ſame manner as before their diſperſion.

Of the ſixty-four ſettlers left at Fora Bay, thirty-nine were black men, nineteen black women, and ſix white women. The men appeared to be determined to defend

defend themſelves: they are warmly attached to the Society that ſent them out; but having been long diſuſed to the reſtraint of regular government, they ſeemed in general turbulent and diſorderly.

CLIMATE.

THE climate may be reckoned to be much the ſame in point of heat, as that of the Weſt Indies; but there is a very cool ſea breeze on the higher grounds; and on the mountainous parts it is believed that a very temperate air may be found.

The Directors will give the moſt particular inſtructions, that in chuſing the ſcite

ſcite of the new town, the healthineſs and temperature of the ſpot ſhall be conſidered as the primary objects. The ſituation of the preſent free ſettlers town in Fora Bay is leſs healthy than that of their former ſettlement; but it may be queſtioned whether a ſpot more favourable than either of theſe places to the health and comfort of Europeans may not be pitched upon.

The mortality among the ſettlers who went out has been already accounted for; and that in other caſes may chiefly be traced to want of care and accommodations; and in particular, to expoſure during the evening damps, and to exceſs in drinking, and other vices. — The ſhip's carpenter, having expoſed himſelf often in the rains, ſlept in wet clothes, and been generally careleſs of his health, caught a fever, and died on his paſſage home. The brother of Mr. Falconbridge, ſent out by the Company, immediately on his

his arrival deſerted their ſervice, and went to Bance Iſland, where he alſo is reported to have died; but no particulars are mentioned. Mr. and Mrs. Falconbridge, and the reſt of the crew, though expoſed to much inconvenience from the ſmallneſs of their veſſel, and the want of accommodation on ſhore, during their reſidence, were in general in good health.

The Directors on the whole have been led to judge, from every information they have received, that the climate of Sierra Leone is extremely favourable to the natives themſelves, and no otherwiſe unfavourable to the Europeans than other climates of the ſame latitude. They truſt that the progreſs in clearing the woods, the cultivation of land, and the erection of houſes, which may be effected before the commencement of the firſt rainy ſeaſon, may preſerve the firſt ſettlers from this country from any extraordinary ſickneſs.

The

The information of their own agent confirms the opinion of Lieutenant Matthews, in his book lately written, entitled, "A Voyage to Sierra Leone," in which he ſays, "That he believes Sierra Leone, "if properly cleared and cultivated, "would be equal in ſalubrity, and ſupe-"rior in cultivation, to any of the iſlands "in the Weſt Indies." The accounts afforded in geographical books very much correſpond. —— "The country "about Sierra Leone" being obſerved to be "one of the beſt in Africa, and the "ſoil very fertile.*"

* The latitude of Cape Sierra Leone, is 8 degrees 12 M. north, the longitude about 12 deg. W. It is uſually about one month's ſail from Great Britain, though Mr Falconbridge went in ſeventeen days. The paſſage is longer in returning, from the interruption of the trade winds.

POPULATION

POPULATION and GOVERNMENT.

THE population towards the ſea-coaſt appears to be inconſiderable, and is chiefly on the river ſide; along the banks of which there are ſeveral towns, conſiſting of ſcarcely more than fifty houſes each. There is generally ſome chief who is a principal Slave Trader, preſiding in the towns, who is ſubordinate to King Naimbanna. The King lives at the ſmall iſland of Robanna, which is ſituated between the Engliſh ſlave factory at Bance Iſland, and the French ſlave factory at Gambia iſland. The inhabitants of Robanna, about fifty in number, are fed by King Naimbanna's bounty, and are entirely dependent on him. The preſent King is of a peaceable

a peaceable diſpoſition, and is generally reſpected and obeyed: his territory is ſaid to reach three days journey up the country, being much more populous in the more interior parts; but neither the boundaries of his country, nor the nature and extent of his juriſdiction appear to be at all clearly aſcertained. When he dies the title is conſidered as elective; but his eldeſt ſon, now in England, would be likely to ſucceed; as the chiefs who chuſe the king generally pay regard to hereditary ſucceſſion.

RELIGION

RELIGION and MORALS.

IN point of religion and morals, the natives appear to be totally uninſtructed. Perpetual feuds and hoſtilities ſeem to prevail between families and the deſcendants of families that have once injured one another, and to carry each other off for ſlaves is a common mode of retaliation. They are generally pagans; have no prieſts, no public or private worſhip, no religious ceremonies. They take as many wives as they pleaſe; but their marriage is not conſidered as indiſſoluble, and they give no kind of education to their children. They have ſome ſuperſtitions, chiefly on the ſubject of witchcraft; but in general are without religious prejudice, and appear extremely deſirous of all kind of European knowledge and improvement. One of the Sierra Leone Chiefs

ſent

ſent his ſon to a Portugueſe ſettlement, at Biziagos, three hundred miles off, that he might learn to write and read: for it is only in the Portugueſe ſettlements that any opportunity of ſchooling is afforded. The ſecretary of King Naimbanna, of the name of Elliot, learned to write and read in England, through the kindneſs of Mr. Granville Sharp, and has excited a great deſire of obtaining education among the king's children. The king ſent one ſon to France for inſtruction; another is educating under a Mandingo teacher, who is a Mahometan. The eldeſt, John Frederic, had determined to make his way to England, juſt before Mr. Falconbridge went out, and had agreed to give three ſlaves to the captain of a Liverpool ſlave ſhip, for his paſſage to Jamaica, with a view of getting from thence to England, in order to gain uſeful knowledge in this country. But the King's confidence in Mr. Falconbridge induced him, notwithſtanding the ſtrongeſt remonſtrances on the

the danger of truſting him in the Company's ſhip, to ſend his ſon ſtraight to London, by Mr. Falconbridge, with a letter to Mr. Granville Sharp, aſking him to direct his education.

Both the king's ſon, and the king himſelf, appear to have the ſtrongeſt deſire to reſcue their country from its preſent ſtate of ignorance and wretchedneſs; and alſo to put an end to the Slave Trade; the miſchiefs of which they ſee and deplore.

The following is an extract from King Naimbanna's Letter to Mr. Sharp:

" It has been told that theſe people (the " free ſettlers from England) would in " time drive me by force of arms back " in the country, and take my Ports " from me. I have received ſeveral ac- " counts from factories and captains of " ſhips againſt the ſettlement, which I " took no notice of, as I conceived it was

" in my opinion ſpite or envy that they
" had againſt their living in the coun-
" try; but have ſerved them in any little
" requeſt they aſked of me, and have en-
" deavoured to keep peace between them
" and my people, and alſo among them-
" ſelves by ſettling a great many diſquiets
" between them. It was pleaſure to do it
" as I thought they would become uſeful
" to us all in this country, by teaching us
" things we know not; and common
" reaſon muſt tell, that the moſt ignorant
" people in the world would be glad to
" ſee their country made good if they
" had idea how it might be done. And
" again I muſt let you know, that if
" there were no other reaſon for my
" wiſhing for the welfare of the ſettle-
" ment, I ſhould do it that there might
" be ſtop put to the horrid depredations
" that are ſo often committed in this
" country, by all countries that come
" here to trade." He then ſpeaks of
the carrying off ſome of his own rela-

tions

tions for ſlaves, which we ſhall mention in another part of this Report. He adds, "As to the ſettlers, I could only wiſh "that you will ſend me over one worthy "of taking the care and command of "the place, then you need not be afraid "of their proſpering in this country. "Mr. Falconbridge during his time out "here I approved much. I ever was "partial to the people of Great Britain, "for which cauſe I have put up with a "great deal of inſults from them, more "than I ſhould from any other coun-"try.

"My ſon I hope you will take care "of him, and let him have his own ways "in nothing but what you think right "yourſelf."

The General Court will no doubt approve of a reſolution come to by the Directors, that in conſideration of the friendſhip ſubſiſting between King Naimbanna

and the Sierra Leone Company, the Company will take upon themſelves the charge of his ſon's education ſo long as he may remain in England.

Meaſures are already taken for placing King Naimbanna's ſon, who is 24 years old, in a ſituation where he will have every attention and advantage in his education; and the Directors feel great ſatisfaction in reflecting, that if it ſhould pleaſe God to prolong his life, he appears likely both from his abilities and diſpoſition, to lend the moſt important aid in introducing the light of knowledge, and comforts of civilization into Africa, and in cementing and perpetuating the moſt confidential union between the European colony and the natives of that country.

CULTIVATION

CULTIVATION and TRADE.

The following GENERAL ACCOUNT *of the* FERTILITY *of* SIERRA LEONE, *taken from Lieut.* MATTHEWS'S *Book before alluded to, it is thought proper to ſubmit to the* GENERAL COURT.

" NO country produces more variety " of excellent and beautiful timber fit for " every purpoſe; but few, if any, bear the " leaſt affinity to the woods of Europe. " The camwood tree is ſo very plentiful " in the interior country, that I am in- " formed the natives frequently burn it for " firewood. And the trees which produce " the gum copal, grow in great abun- " dance upon the heights of Sierra Leone.

" The palm trees which furniſh the natives
" with both wine and oil, flouriſh here in
" great plenty and perfection. Wild geeſe
" and ducks of various kinds, Guinea hens,
" pheaſants, quails, curlues, plovers, ſnipes,
" doves, and pigeons, are found in the
" woods and on the banks of rivers. Their
" domeſtic animals are cattle, ſheep, goats,
" and ſmall poultry. Turkies, geeſe, and
" Muſcovy and common ducks, would
" thrive here extremely well, and ſoon
" ſtock the country, would the natives be
" at the trouble to rear them. And it is
" not a little ſurpriſing that the Guinea
" fowls, which are real natives of the
" country, and are ſoon domeſticated,
" ſhould be neglected by them.——

" The ſeas, rivers, and creeks, abound in
" great variety of moſt excellent fiſh. In
" the interior country, ſouth of Sierra
" Leone, they have a white iron, of which
" they make knives and ſabres.

" The beſt indigo in the world, if we " may judge from the deep indelible blues " the natives give their cloths, grows wild " in every part of the country; and the " Portugueze, when ſettled here, had large " indigo works in ſeveral places, the ruins " of which are ſtill remaining.

" Cotton is cultivated by the natives, " but in no greater quantity than they can " manufacture themſelves; but as it is an " article that requires little trouble in the " cultivation, I have endeavoured by en- " couragement, to induce them to propa- " gate it to ſuch an extent as to become an " article of European traffic. There are " ſeveral kinds of it which materially differ, " not only in quality but colour; particu- " larly three kinds—one perfectly white, " one of a tawny or nankeen colour, and " one of a pale red, or pink colour.

" Sugar canes are a native plant, and " grow wild to a ſize beyond any I ever

" ſaw in the Weſt Indies; they alſo have
" ſome tobacco, which is not eſteemed, ow-
" ing perhaps to their want of knowledge
" in the cultivation. Rice is the chief and
" ſtaple produce of the country, and con-
" ſtitutes their principal and almoſt only
" food; and when pains are taken with
" it, it is equally as white as Carolina rice,
" and every way preferable as an article of
" food.———

" To the northward they have three rice
" harveſts in the year. Rice is the prin-
" cipal food of the natives, although they
" have caſſada, yams, eddies, ſweet pota-
" toes, and great variety of other roots
" and vegetables unknown in Europe.

" Indian corn and millet both thrive ex-
" tremely well, but are little cultivated.

" The malaguetto pepper, or grain of pa-
" radiſe, is found in the woods, but it is
" not ſo pungent as that which is pur-

" chaſed

" chaſed from the natives of Baſſa and the
" places adjacent.

" The bird and pod pepper is cultivated
" in great plenty and perfection, and there
" are ſeveral kinds of aromatic fruit, which
" are excellent ſubſtitutes in culinary uſes
" for the ſpices of the Eaſt.———

" Moſt of the tropical fruits known in
" the Weſt Indies, abound here, in the
" greateſt perfection, particularly pine-
" apples, oranges, and limes; which are
" in ſeaſon, but not in the ſame degree
" of plenty, all the year round.

" Tamarinds, caſhews, &c. have been
" planted by Europeans, and thrive amaz-
" ingly: and nothing can exceed the lux-
" uriancy of the wild vines, which bear
" amazing quantities of grapes, but are of
" an acrid taſte. If cultivated, however,
" they would, no doubt, be equal to thoſe
" of Europe. Several kinds of plumbs and

" other

" other fruits, cooling and grateful, are
" found in the woods, which are unknown
" in Europe and the Weſt Indies. Caſtor
" nuts, and many others which produce
" oil, grow ſpontaneouſly almoſt every
" where.

" In ſhort, Nature appears to have been
" extremely liberal, and to have poured
" forth her treaſures with an unſparing
" hand; but in moſt caſes, the indolence
" of the natives prevents their reaping
" thoſe advantages, of which an induſ-
" trious nation would poſſeſs themſelves."

The information received by the Company, from their own agents, and from various other quarters, exceedingly confirms the above account of Lieutenant Matthews; and Mr. Falconbridge has collected ſeveral ſpecimens of native produce, particularly of woods, iron ore, gum copal, pepper, rice, cotton, and ſugar-cane, which afford the moſt favourable hopes to the Company.

The

The Directors do not however enter into any further detail of particulars, but they have to obſerve in general, that all the moſt valuable productions of the tropical climates ſeem to grow ſpontaneouſly at Sierra Leone; and that nothing but attention and cultivation appear wanting, in order to produce them of every kind, and in ſufficient quantities to become articles of trade, and even of great national concern.

Beſides the proſpect of trading to Sierra Leone for the immediate productions of that country, it appears alſo, that a coaſt and river trade, and, through the rivers, an important inland trade, may eaſily be eſtabliſhed by means of ſmall veſſels calculated for that purpoſe: Theſe might depoſit at Sierra Leone productions of Africa, brought from other parts. The coaſt of Africa, neighbouring to Sierra Leone, is more interſected with rivers navigable for ſmall craft, than any other

other portion of it whatſoever: by which circumſtance an extenſive commerce might be greatly facilitated.

STATE

OF THE

SLAVE-TRADE.

THE preſent ſtate of the Slave Trade at Sierra Leone, being ſuch that it will be found a material conſideration in deciding on the plan to be purſued by the Company, the Directors think themſelves bound to ſtate unreſervedly the information they have upon this head.

It

It appears in general, that the Slave Trade is decreaſing very much at Sierra Leone, the price of ſlaves having riſen to about £.25, or £.30 each; and it is ſuppoſed that not more than 1000 ſlaves are now exported annually from this river. They are chiefly brought down through a chain of factories, and a great many are children. They do not croſs the Company's ground. The kings, chiefs, and others, having any property, deal in ſlaves; but the chief traders are the Engliſh and French factories. It is cuſtomary to give the factors and agents, who either travel into the country themſelves, or deal with other factors ſtill further up the river, a quantity of European goods on credit, (a great part of them gunpowder and ſpirits) and if the man in poſſeſſion of the goods waſtes or conſumes them, ſo as not to fulfil his obligation of bringing the ſtipulated ſlave or ſlaves in return, he is taken for a ſlave himſelf; or if he does not return in a certain time, any

any one of his family is taken. This wild and indiſcriminate way of taking, in ſome caſes, any of the family; in others, any of the ſame town with the offending perſon, and ſelling him for a ſlave, unleſs redeemed by ſome other ſlave, appears from the information of King Naimbanna's ſon, to be a very prevailing cuſtom. A ſudden vindictive temper ſeems alſo to be common with the natives, and to be inſtrumental in promoting the Slave Trade. If, to uſe one of their own expreſſions, a domeſtic ſlave is ſaucy, he is ſold: the children of theſe ſlaves are occaſionally ſold alſo; though with the rich traders this is not common: for theſe domeſtic ſlaves are conſidered as diſtinct from thoſe for trade, doing little work, and having very much of their own way. King Naimbanna has 120 of theſe, who take half the produce of their labour for themſelves, and they are much attached to him. This little vindictive temper ſeems to be joined with another evil principle.

It

It is a point of honour not to forgive an injury, and to perpetuate private feuds between one family and another, ſo that they will even take each other for ſlaves, as they can get opportunity, for many generations*. The practice of each man's revenging his own quarrel in this way,

* The ſpirit of retaliation which now ſubſiſts in Africa, appears to be much the ſame with that which has prevailed in all other countries, before Chriſtianity was introduced, or civilization had taken place. Doctor Robertſon obſerves, that formerly, in Scotland, "quarrels were tranſmitted from father to ſon, and, under "the name of *deadly feuds*, ſubſiſted for many generations, with unmitigated rancour." (Hiſt. of Scotland, vol. 1. p. 40. edit. 1781.) Though the Africans are vindictive to their enemies, Lieut. Matthews obſerves, that, "to their friends they are hoſpitable and kind," and that "he received ſuch treatment from them, in "the time of the utmoſt diſtreſs, as he could have "expected only from his beſt and neareſt friends." (Voy. p. 96.) Mr. and Mrs. Falconbridge, in like manner, ſpeak of having experienced the greateſt hoſpitality and kindneſs from the natives. The latter ſays, that the women were moſt uncommonly attentive and obliging to her, and ſeemed to vie with each other in their endeavours to render her ſituation comfortable.

by

by ſelling his enemy for a ſlave, though partly occaſioned by the vindictive ſpirit of the people, may be chiefly aſcribed however to the want of any efficient government. The offences, real or imputed, which are puniſhed by ſelling the parties for ſlaves, are chiefly adultery and witchcraft.

The account given by king Naimbanna's ſon of the terror, anguiſh, and deſpair ſhewn by the ſlaves when they come down to the coaſt, is extremely dreadful. It is not ſafe to go near them, unleſs their arms are ſecurly chained, leſt they ſhould ſtrike or ſtab the perſon approaching them with ſome concealed weapon. It is a common thing for them to cut their own throats, or to contrive ſome way of deſtroying themſelves in their rage and deſperation. He is perſuaded that he has known himſelf above an hunared who have cut their throats, ſhot, or ſtabbed themſelves, or ſome way put an end to their

their own lives, before they could be got into the ſhips.

That the practice of kidnapping prevails at Sierra Leone, the Directors have received very plain and undeniable accounts; and even if they had it not in actual proof, there are a variety of circumſtances which imply that it muſt be no very uncommon cuſtom. The inhabitants all go armed; they carry both guns and a number of large knives, for defence againſt each other; even the women carry knives alſo. King Naimbanna's ſon ſays, they have all now learned to go armed a great way up the country.

When he himſelf has gone on an expedition up the country to Scaſſus, he has not dared to take his uſual reſt till he reached a place of ſecurity, leſt he ſhould be ſurpriſed in his ſleep. The

people living in the little towns along the river leave the wood growing close up to the houſes, for the ſake (as ſeveral of them told Mr. Falconbridge) of having ſhelter to run into in caſe of an attack.

A number of towns are now ſtanding without inhabitants on the ſea coaſt, two of which Mr. Falconbridge has ſeen: they have been all broken up by Cleveland, a very great mulatto ſlave trader, who was educated at Liverpool.

The following FACTS *the* DIRECTORS *think it proper to ſpecify:*

Mr. Falconbridge, being in the free ſettlers' town one afternoon between four and five o'clock, heard a great ſhout, and immediately afterwards the report of a gun. He inſtantly armed forty of the ſettlers,

ſettlers, fearing an attack was going to be made on the ſettlement, and haſtened with them to the place from whence the ſound came. He found three Mandingo men, with two other perſons, all armed, in the act of tying the hands of a man: the poor wretch was ſhrieking bitterly: he had been caught by theſe men as he was croſſing over from one of the interior towns, and the ſhout and report of the gun were found to have been expreſſions of joy on his being taken. Mr. Falconbridge adds, that from motives of prudence he reſtrained himſelf from obeying on this occaſion the impulſe of his feelings, which ſtrongly prompted him to effect the poor creature's reſcue. He told them however, that if the perſon kidnapped had happened to be one of his own men, he ſhould certainly have put them all to the bayonet. Green, who is now in England, was one of the forty who was with Mr. Falconbridge in this ſcene.

A young lad, of about ſixteen, belonging to the free ſettlers' town, ſtraggling one day to a little diſtance from it, was ſeized by King Jammy, who lives two miles below, and ſold for a ſlave. One of the other ſettlers happening to paſs by and ſee him in chains, brought word of this to the town, and the ſettlers ſeized one of Jammy's people in return. A diſpute enſued, in which one man was killed; but it was terminated by the good offices of King Naimbanna, each ſide giving up his priſoner. The pretext for this outrage was a charge of adultery againſt one of the other ſettlers.

A young woman, was ſold by Signor Domingo, Chief of the neareſt town on the contrary ſide to King Jammy's, without the imputation of any crime whatſoever. She was one of his wives, and was all on a ſudden ſold to a Frenchman. She had often been with Mrs. Falconbridge, and had called in upon her

quite

quite unſuſpicious, and at her liberty, the day before.

It has been already mentioned, that King Jammy accuſes ſome American ſhip of carrying off four of his people for ſlaves; and that the conſequence of this was the retaliation on the American boat, and burning of the ſettlers' town. King Jammy perſiſts in talking of retaliation on any Americans that come.

Three of King Naimbanna's relations about two or three years ſince were decoyed into a Daniſh ſhip, on the pretence of buying ſome fiſh of them, and they were all three carried off as ſlaves. King Naimbanna writes thus to Mr. Granville Sharp, concerning them. After mentioning as before ſtated, "the horrid depreda-" tions committed there by all countries " that come there to trade," he ſays, " There are three diſtant relations of mine " now in the Weſt Indies, carried away by

" one Captain Cox, captain of a Daniſh
" ſhip," their names as follows:——
" Corpro, Banna, and Morbour. Theſe
" were taken out of my river Sierra
" Leone. I know not how to get them
" back. I never hurt or deprived any
" perſon of their right or property, or
" withheld from them what is their due:
" ſo I only let you know of theſe lads,
" that there will be an account taken of
" them one day or another."

King Naimbanna's ſon alſo mentions that another relation, a couſin of King Naimbanna's, who had been named Jack Rodney, was aſked to go on board a ſlave ſhip at Bance Iſland, in order to pilot her down the river. He begged to be put on ſhore again at Robanna town, but the Captain refuſed, ſaying, he would land him lower down at the extreme mouth of the river; when they got to the mouth he again refuſed to let him land, and carried him to Jamaica.

On

On his arrival there, ſpeaking good Engliſh, he obtained ſeveral interviews with the Governor, and owing to this delay, he was recovered by a ſhip which brought a letter concerning him from Sierra Leone.

Another connection of King Naimbanna's, named Barbier Borro, who married the King's aunt, was ſeized two years ago by an infamous trader, named Harry, and ſold to Cleveland the great Mulatto trader educated at Liverpool before mentioned.

King Naimbanna's ſon relates, that the ſame Harry ſold his own father for a ſlave to Cleveland. The father's name was Nankedabar; the old man, who was then rich, redeemed himſelf by ſelling twenty-two of his domeſtic ſlaves as the price of his redemption. The terror occaſioned amongſt the reſt of his domeſtic ſlaves by his ſelling ſo great a part of their number was ſuch, that

they all ran away from him, and have ſince been living among the mountains of Sierra Leone.

The ſame Harry who ſold his father fell ſome time after into debt, and has been ſold for a ſlave himſelf, his father being either unable or unwilling to redeem him.

THE Directors having now ſtated the very great and uncommon natural advantages of Sierra Leone on the one hand, and its preſent forlorn and miſerable ſituation on the other, are led to obſerve, that it is evidently not merely a commercial factory that they have to eſtabliſh, but that in order to introduce either a ſafe trade, or any conſiderable degree of civilization and cultivation, it muſt be an eſpecial object of the Company

pany to provide effectually for the protection of property, and for the perſonal ſecurity of the ſettlers on their diſtrict.

The Directors have therefore felt themſelves bound to take care, that together with their firſt adventure, a ſufficient ſtrength ſhall be ſent out for ſecurity againſt external violence, and maintaining domeſtic tranquility.

They have reſolved, that three or four veſſels ſhall ſail at once with a conſiderable number of perſons who will thus be an effectual protection and accommodation to each other. The ſhips will ſail in a few weeks, and will carry a ſufficient quantity of articles, both for opening a ſtore in the way of commerce, and for the uſe of the colony itſelf.

It ſeems obvious both from general reaſoning on the ſubject, and from paſt experience, that a ſmall and feeble attempt

tempt to ſet up a colony, or to begin a new trade at Sierra Leone, under all the circumſtances of that place, is in no reſpect ſo likely to proſper, as an attempt made upon a larger ſcale, carrying out a ſtronger body of perſons from hence, and ſupported by the weight of ſo large a capital as may imply a determination to perſiſt.

In forming a new colony, there are a variety of inconveniences and difficulties to be expected, againſt which a reſpectable eſtabliſhment is the beſt ſecurity.

And beſides the advantages of general ſecurity to the ſettlement, and perſonal convenience to the ſettlers, from the formation of a reſpectable eſtabliſhment at once, the Directors are of opinion alſo, that a much more profitable trade is eventually to be expected by conducting it on a large ſcale, than by

by confining it to a narrow mercantile ſpeculation.

The expence of protection to a factory, and of demurrage to the ſhips waiting or trading about for the ſcattered produce of Africa, has hitherto been ſo great, that the uſual advantage in the barter which is extremely great, has perhaps been no more than what was neceſſary to indemnify the trader for his high charges, and leave over and above theſe the ordinary profit of trade. The advantage therefore of introducing a great degree of cultivation on one ſpot, of collecting a great body of conſumers of Britiſh articles on the ſide of one river, of ſtoring a large quantity of goods in their factory rather than a ſmall one (for the factory and ſuperintendance muſt in either caſe be nearly an equal ſtanding expence); the advantage alſo of thus providing the means of a more prompt ſale, and quicker returns in the African trade

trade than have yet been effected, muſt be very obvious.

To the attainment of theſe objects in any degree worth mentioning, a conſiderable capital appears indiſpenſably neceſſary, and upon the whole, the Directors have thought proper to name the ſum of not leſs than One Hundred Thouſand Pounds, in the proportion that will be ſtated at the end of this Report.

It is obvious, moreover, from what has been ſaid in the courſe of the above reaſoning, that an abundant capital muſt tend in many ways, to accelerate the general cultivation of the diſtrict; and it is to the profits that will ultimately accrue to them from an extenſive and ſpirited cultivation, that the Company muſt in a good meaſure look for its reimburſement.

Having

Having thus laid before the Court the ſubſtance of their information from Sierra Leone, and alſo the general grounds on which they have thought it adviſeable to propoſe a capital of £.100,000, the Directors wiſh to give ſome account of their proceedings ſince the laſt General Court, —of the plan they propoſe at preſent to adopt at Sierra Leone,—and then to ſtate the probable ſources of profit to which they may look forward, in order both to indemnify their firſt expences, and to furniſh a dividend to the Proprietors.

Beſides their ſhip Amy of 190 tons meaſurement, and the Lapwing of 35 tons, the Directors have lately purchaſed the Harpy of 380 tons meaſurement, and 560 tons burthen, ſhe being a veſſel well calculated

culated to carry out a conſiderable number of paſſengers.

She will be armed with about 20 guns, many of which may be afterwards mounted on the fort that is to be built, and ſhe will remain ſome time in the river for the ſecurity and accommodation of the ſettlement. Another ſmall veſſel is intended to be purchaſed. The whole value of the ſhips and cargoes (including articles both for the colony, and for a ſmall early cargo in return) will probably amount to about £.15,000.

The perſons going out are of three deſcriptions.—The ſervants of the Company, under a regular and permanent ſalary, of whom the chief perſons will form a ſmall council, and in them will be veſted the management and ſuperintendence.

Secondly.

Secondly. Artificers and others, to whom for a limited time, a certain ſupport will be promiſed.

Thirdly. Settlers on their own account, to whom grants of land will be promiſed on the following general principles, viz.——Every ſettler going out from hence furniſhed with a proper certificate, ſhall receive 20 acres of land for himſelf, 10 for his wife, and 5 for each child.——The ſettlers going by the firſt ſhips ſhall alſo have the advantage of a free paſſage out, and of full rations of proviſions for three months after their arrival, and half rations for the three ſucceeding months.——Settlers having property ſhall be permitted to have additional lots, on paying into the Company's hands in England certain ſums proportionate to the lots they deſire, which ſums ſhall be returned them in ſtores and implements of huſbandry, according to the progreſs they make in cultivation.

The fixed ſervants of the Company whom it is now thought proper to ſend out, as far as they can be at preſent accurately ſtated, are—the Superintendent or Chief, and his Secretary; a Commercial Agent, a Surveyor, a Store-keeper, a Medical perſon, a Surgeon and aſſiſtant Surgeon, a Book-keeper and Clerk, a Clergyman, a School-maſter and School-miſtreſs;* the ſalaries of theſe may be reckoned at about £.2000 per annum†. What may be the future extenſion of the expences of the eſtabliſhment at Sierra

* Several of the officers take their wives, and ſome of them their children by the firſt ſhips. Many of the firſt ſettlers alſo propoſe to take their wives and children with them.

† Beſides the expence of ſalaries above mentioned, there will be, in the firſt year, the charge of conveyance to Sierra Leone, of the officers, artificers, and ſettlers; that of their maintenance for three months, at full rations, and for three months thereafter, at half rations; that of defence and of cloathing for the militia; beſides the charge of building a ſmall fort, houſes for the Company's ſervants, and other public buildings.

Leone, the Directors are not able to ſay with any accuracy; but it appears to them that many charges which muſt fall upon the Company in the firſt inſtance, to whom the protection and ſuperintendence muſt in the outſet entirely belong, may with great propriety afterwards be either partially or entirely borne by the ſettlers themſelves, for whoſe benefit and comfort they are afforded.

A conſiderable detail of inſtructions will be given to the governor and council, with a view of promoting order and œconomy, and of giving the utmoſt encouragement that can be ſafely furniſhed by the Company, both to cultivation and commerce; and every meaſure will be taken for laying a foundation of happineſs to the natives, by the promotion of induſtry, the diſcouragement of polygamy, the ſetting up of ſchools, and the gradual introduction of religious and moral inſtruction among them, which

it is hoped will be rendered the more eaſy, as they are moſt of them ſomewhat acquainted with the Engliſh tongue.—The moſt wide and general diffuſion of European light, knowledge, and improvement, the Directors hope, through the medium of this Company, may thus be introduced into the Continent of Africa; and it will be a particular inſtruction to their ſervants abroad to apply their attention to this great object.

The ſtrongeſt injunctions will alſo be laid upon them, to abſtain from every offenſive meaſure, and to cultivate the general friendſhip of the natives, among whom they truſt they ſhall find labourers on reaſonable terms.

For the ſake of acquainting the Princes and Chiefs, as well as the natives in general, with the real views of the Company, and for the ſake alſo of counteracting any miſrepreſentations that might be

made

made concerning them, they propoſe to ſend over the following printed Declaration:——

" The Sierra Leone Company, eſta-
" bliſhed by the Britiſh Parliament, do
" hereby declare, that they will ſend out
" goods from England, and take all kinds
" of African produce in exchange; that
" they will not deal in ſlaves themſelves,
" nor allow of any ſlave trade on their
" ground.

" They will always have a large ſtore
" of European goods for ſale, and a force
" ſufficient to defend it.

" They wiſh always to keep peace,
" and will make no war, unleſs they are
" firſt attacked; but they will ſuffer no
" one to be ill treated on their ground,
" nor to be ſeized and carried off into
" ſlavery; but will themſelves puniſh
" their own people for any crimes fairly

" proved to have been committed by
" them.

" Black and white ſettlers will all
" be equally governed, and will have their
" perſons and property ſecured, according
" to the laws of Great Britain.

" Schools for reading, writing, and
" accounts, will be ſet up by the Com-
" pany, who will be ready to receive
" and inſtruct the children of ſuch na-
" tives as ſhall be willing to put them
" under their care."

IN ſtating the ſources of profit to the Company, having already gone ſo much into detail, the Directors will only recapitulate the ſeveral heads from which there is a reaſonable expectation of their ariſing. They appear to be theſe three:

First.

Firſt. The profits, which though inconſiderable in the outſet, may hereafter be reaſonably expected to be very important, ariſing out of a land revenue, derived partly from quit-rents, and partly from a gradually increaſing tax upon the produce of their diſtrict.

Secondly. The profits from certain portions of land reſerved in the Company's own hands, to be either cultivated on their own account, or to be let or diſtributed hereafter, as may ſeem moſt advantageous.

Thirdly. The profits on an extended trade, both with Sierra Leone itſelf, and its neighbourhood, and alſo with the interior parts of Africa, in the carrying on of all which, the Company by good conduct, will have many advantages.

It muſt appear from the general account already given, that the Directors are endeavouring in the outſet rather to lay the foundation of happineſs to Africa, and of future proſperity to the Company, than to graſp at any premature advantages. They truſt, however, that they are not indulging too ſanguine a proſpect in looking forward to conſiderable and growing profits, directly reſulting from and intimately connected with the general and increaſing proſperity of the country, ſubject to their juriſdiction.

The Court of Directors beg leave now to ſubmit the following Propoſition reſpecting the Capital:

" That the Capital of the Company " be not leſs than *One Hundred Thouſand* " *Pounds*."

At

At a GENERAL COURT *of the* SIERRA LEONE COMPANY, *held at the King's Head Tavern in the Poultry,* LONDON, *on Wedneſday the* 19*th Day of October*, 1791,

HENRY THORNTON, Eſq. *in the Chair*,

The Minutes of the laſt General Court were read and confirmed.

Read a Report from the Court of Directors, propoſing that the Capital of the Company be not leſs than *One Hundred Thouſand Pounds.*

"*RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY*,

"That the Capital of the Company be "not leſs than *One Hundred Thouſand* "*Pounds.*"

At a GENERAL COURT, *held at the* KING'S *HEAD* TAVERN *in the* POULTRY, *LONDON, on Wedneſday the 30th Day of November*, 1791,

READ a REPORT from the *COURT* of *DIRECTORS*, propoſing that in conſideration of the increaſing magnitude of the Company's affairs, and the wiſh expreſſed by many Proprietors to propoſe more new Proprietors than a Capital of *One Hundred Thouſand Pounds* would allow of, a ſum of not leſs than *Fifty Thouſand Pounds* ſhould be added to the Capital of the ſaid Company.

" *RESOLVED*,

" THAT a Capital of not leſs than *Fifty* " *Thouſand Pounds* be added to the Capital " of

" of *One Hundred Thouſand Pounds* re-
" ſolved upon at the laſt Court.

" THAT the whole of every Subſcrip-
" tion he paid in at one Payment, within
" one month after the date of a circular
" letter from the Court of Directors calling
" for the ſame.

" THAT every Proprietor of a Share
" be at liberty to recommend, either in
" perſon at the preſent Meeting, or by
" letter to the Secretary, on or before
" *Tueſday December* the 13*th*, Proprietors
" for his proportion of the new Shares;
" every new Proprietor being declared by
" the perſon recommending him to be
" well affected to the objects of the Com-
" pany, and to intend holding his Share
" or Shares on his own account.

[*N. B.* Every Proprietor of a Share may recommend for *Nineteen* new Shares in the whole.]

" THAT

" THAT all the ſaid perſons recom-
" mended as new Proprietors ſhall be
" balloted for on *Tueſday* the 20*th* of
" *December*, at a ballot to be kept open
" from twelve to five o'Clock; and that
" in compliance with a Reſolution of the
" laſt General Court, *one-third* of the
" perſons balloting ſhall exclude.

" THAT the right of recommending
" new Proprietors for the deficiency that
" ſhall remain after the recommendations
" up to the 13*th* of *December* ſhall have
" been given in, ſhall be divided equally
" among all the preſent Proprietors, who
" ſhall be informed, by letter, of the
" further ſhare of recommendations due
" to them.

" THAT every Proprietor ſhall be re-
" queſted to fill up his ſhare of the ſaid
" deficiency of recommendations by a
" letter to the Secretary, to be ſent in, on
" or before the *Firſt* of *February*; and
" that

" that a further ballot of new Proprietors
" ſhall be taken on the *Eighth* day of
" *February*.

" THAT ſuch portion of the ſaid *One*
" *Hundred and Fifty Thouſand Pounds* as
" ſhall not be filled up on the ſaid *Firſt*
" day of *February*, may be filled up by
" the exiſting Proprietors, either by their
" taking an additional number of Shares
" on their own account, or by their re-
" commendation of new Proprietors, until
" the whole deficiency be ſupplied.

" That in caſe of any future increaſe
" of Capital, beyond the ſum of *One*
" *Hundred and Fifty Thouſand Pounds*,
" the right of taking the additional ſhares
" ſhall be diſtributed as equally as poſſible
" among all the then exiſting Proprietors,
" in proportion to the ſhares they hold;
" and, in caſe any of them ſhall decline
" to take the ſhares due to them, the right

" of

" of recommending new Proprietors ſhall
" be diſtributed among them on the ſame
" principle of equality.

" That the letter [A] hereunto an-
" nexed, be the future form of recom-
" mending new Members.

" THAT the thanks of this Court be
" given to the Chairman, Deputy-Chair-
" man, and Court of Directors, for their
" Report now made, and for their con-
" tinued attention to the intereſts of this
" Company.

" THAT this Court do now adjourn
" to *Tueſday* the 20*th day of December*
" *next*, at *Twelve* o'clock at noon pre-
" ciſely, at this place."

LETTER

LETTER [A].

" *I beg to recommend the following Perſons:* —

A. B. *of* *for* *Shares*

C. D. *of* *for* *Shares*

" *in the Stock of the Sierra Leone Company,*
" *believing they are well affected to the*
" *objects for which the Sierra Leone Com-*
" *pany is eſtabliſhed; and that they take*
" *the ſaid Stock on their own account.*"

POSTSCRIPT.

MANY of the numerous body of Proprietors, who were balloted into the Company on the 20*th* of *December* laſt, having deſired to become Members merely from a general notion of the benevolence of the undertaking, are ſtill imperfectly acquainted with the nature and objects of the inſtitution: the Directors therefore have reſolved to ſend to each of them a copy of their Report of the 19*th* of *October*, ſubjoining a few particulars, which that Report, being drawn up with a different view, did not contain; together with a moſt important article of intelligence,

gence, which it was not then in their power to ſtate with certainty.

The leading object in the formation of the Sierra Leone Company, may be briefly ſtated to have been, to introduce a juſt and honourable commerce, with the extenſive Continent of Africa; together with all the various bleſſings and comforts which might be expected to follow in its train; to ſubſtitute in the place of that ſavage and diſgraceful traffic, which has too long ſubſiſted, an intercourſe of another ſort, reſting on the true foundation of trade, the mutual interchange of commodities.—Conſiderable advantages appeared hereby likely to reſult to Great Britain; not only from our being able to obtain at a more eaſy rate ſeveral raw materials of important manufactures, and various conveniencies and luxuries of life, but alſo from its opening to us a continually increaſing market for the ſale of the produce of Britiſh induſtry; a market, indeed,

to

to the demands and extent of which it is difficult to affign a limit.

But the benefits Africa was to derive from this connexion are ſtill more important: the light of religious and moral truth, and all the comforts of civilized ſociety. To inſure the attainment of theſe benevolent purpoſes, it was neceſſary for the Company to be poſſeſſed of a tract of land in Africa; not only that they might there have a ſecure repoſitory for their goods and merchandize, but that there might be a little diſtrict, wherein the Africans, ſecure from the ravages of the Slave Trade, might enjoy the protection of a well-ordered Government, and cultivate the ground in peace.

It had been aſcertained, beyond a doubt, that the climate and ſoil of Africa were admirably ſuited to the growth of ſugar, ſpices, coffee, cotton, indigo, rice, tobacco, and every other ſpecies of tropical

produce. The Company propoſed to inſtruct the natives in the art of raiſing theſe articles, and to ſet them the example, by a ſpirited cultivation on its own account: and the Peninſula of Sierra Leone, being one of the healthieſt and moſt fertile ſpots on the whole Coaſt of Africa, has been ſelected for the trial of this intereſting experiment.

The chief ſources, whence the Company's profits are to be derived, have been already ſtated in the Report; to which it may be here added, that directions have been given to the Commercial Agent of the Company, to puſh forward a trade, according to a mode preſcribed, in ſuch articles as Africa is known at preſent to produce: and ſmall veſſels have been diſpatched to him, in aid of the deſign.—Proper meaſures are taken for cultivating different ſpots of ground, on the Company's account, for the moſt profitable tropical productions: and in particular, a

perſon

perſon of tried ſkill and long experience in the Weſt Indies, has received orders to ſet on foot a conſiderable Sugar Plantation without delay.

The Directors have beſides engaged a Mineralogiſt and a Botaniſt, of great ability in their reſpective profeſſions, who are going out to explore the Company's diſtrict, and its vicinity, with a view of bringing to light new productions that may become articles of future commerce. And, in general, the Proprietors may be aſſured, that the Directors will proſecute with vigour, all ſuch meaſures as appear to them likely to conduce to the advantage of their Conſtituents; being perſuaded that the intereſts of the Company and of Africa are the ſame.

The Company's affairs are to be managed by Thirteen Directors, annually elected for that purpoſe.

The Capital Joint Stock of the Company is limited by the Act of Incorporation to £.500,000, and is divided into ſhares of £.50 each. Members of the Company are to have votes according to the number of their ſhares, in a fixed proportion, and to a certain extent: every one poſſeſſed of one or two ſhare or ſhares and no more, is entitled to one vote; of three or four ſhares and no more, to two votes; of five, ſix, or ſeven ſhares, and no more, to three votes; of eight or nine ſhares and no more, to four votes; and of ten or more ſhares, to five votes. There is no reſtriction on the number of Shares any member of the Company may hold, but no one is to be entitled to more than five votes.

A juſt and true account of the debts, credits, and amount of the capital ſtock of the Company, ſigned by the Chairman, Deputy-Chairman, and five other Directors,

Directors, is to be annually publiſhed in the London Gazette.

The Company is authorized by the Act of Incorporation to make Bye-Laws; and it has been in conſequence ſince ordained, that no Director ſhall be concerned in any contract whatſoever relating to the buſineſs or affairs of the Company; or directly or indirectly take any fee, preſent, or reward; as alſo that no officer or ſervant of the Company ſhall directly or indirectly take any fee, preſent, or reward, other than ſuch as ſhall have been allowed and duly eſtabliſhed by the Court of Directors.

It was alſo determined by a General Court of Proprietors, when the laſt increaſe of capital was reſolved on, and it ſeemed the ſenſe of the Court to lay it down as a general principle, that every Proprietor ſhall pay in his full ſubſcription within one month after it ſhall have been called for by the Court of Directors.

Laſtly, it may be proper to mention, what, but for ſome inquiries that have been made on this head, the Directors would have deemed it almoſt ſuperfluous to declare, that no Member of the Company is anſwerable further than to the amount of his particular ſhare or ſhares, for any debts the Company may contract.

The important article of intelligence, which was above referred to, reſpects a large and valuable acceſſion of inhabitants, the new Colony is about to receive from America. It conſiſts of a number of Free Black Families, to the amount, it is believed, of at leaſt 1000 ſouls, a part of many who, at the cloſe of the American war, were carried from different Provinces of the United States into Nova Scotia, where they were promiſed allotments of land. The Directors hardly feel themſelves at liberty to ſpeak without reſerve in this part of their narrative: let it ſuffice therefore to ſay, that the rigour of the

the climate, and ſtill more the degraded condition wherein theſe poor people found themſelves, and the ill treatment they received, after having many of them bled in the ſervice of Great Britain, inducing them to wiſh for a change of ſituation, they deputed an agent to make application for that purpoſe to the Britiſh Miniſtry; and in conſequence of his expreſs ſolicitations to that effect, it was ſettled that as many of them as might chuſe it, ſhould be conveyed, at the expenſe of Government, to our new ſettlement at Sierra Leone. The Directors are happy in being able to declare, from the accounts of a perſon, on whoſe information they can entirely rely, that under many diſadvantages, they have proved themſelves a ſober, orderly, induſtrious ſet of people, from whoſe domeſtic habits, and ability as well as diſpoſition to labour for the ſupport of their families, the moſt pleaſing proſpects may be indulged.

Conſcious that for many obvious reaſons theſe people were to be preferred to Europeans in the firſt plantation of a Colony in Africa, the Directors have thought it more prudent, for the preſent, to forbear giving Settlers any material encouragement to go out from this country: they have ſent out however the requiſite number of Artificers, and the Members of their Civil Government, and of their other eſtabliſhments.

The Directors daily become more and more convinced, that a large capital is to be wiſhed for, with a view to the more effectual attainment of the great objects of their inſtitution; and that it may be even deſirable to extend it far beyond the limits they have as yet ſuggeſted. It would be too long a taſk here to enumerate the various reaſons by which they are led to this concluſion, and ſome of them have been already touched on in the preceding Report; but it may not be amiſs to intimate

that

that the large and ſudden population the Colony is about to receive by the admiſſion of the blacks from Nova Scotia, however ultimately advantageous, muſt greatly increaſe the preſent diſburſements of the Company; who, inſtead of having to provide for a trifling factory, muſt at once incur the various charges which attend the firſt plantation of a conſiderable Colony, and form all their eſtabliſhments on a proportionably increaſed ſcale.

The Directors truſt, however, that the Proprietors will not be ſo far influenced by the deſire of adding to their capital, as to admit into their body any perſons, on whom they cannot rely for ſincere attachment to the fundamental principles of the inſtitution: nor can the Directors entertain an apprehenſion, leſt the Funds of the Company ſhould in any degree fall ſhort, from the obſervance of this ſalutary caution. They cannot doubt but that a plan, founded on ſuch principles, and directed

directed to ſuch ends, will readily obtain, in an age and a country like ours, whatever ſupport it may require. The number, already great, is daily increaſing, of thoſe who feel for the wrongs of Africa, and are eager to diſcover ſome mode of compenſating to her the injuries ſhe has ſo long been ſuſtaining at our hands.—Whatever may have been unjuſtly urged againſt any other meaſure that has been brought forward under this impreſſion, no one can object to the undertaking of the Sierra Leone Company. Even conſidered in relation to the Abolition of the Slave Trade, its operation, though ſlow, is unqueſtionably ſure. Though it may not at once cut up by the roots this inhuman traffic, it tends to divert the ſtream that waters it, and deſtroy the principles from which it derives its nutriment. Filled with theſe animating ideas, the Directors grudge not the great pains they have taken in the execution of their important truſt; nor will they at all relax in their exertions. It is

their

their joy and their comfort to be thus employed: they are thankful for being allowed to be the inſtruments of the goodneſs of Providence, in the communication of ſuch great and extenſive benefits. Already they anticipate the happy effects of their labours. They look forward with delight to that joyful period, when, by the influence of the Company's meaſures, and the efficacy of its example, the Continent of Africa ſhall have been reſcued from her preſent ſtate of darkneſs and miſery, and ſhall exhibit a far different ſcene, of light and knowledge, and civilization and order, and peaceful induſtry, and domeſtic comfort.

London, Jan. 3, 1792.